of which could be visited with resumption of grant. Rules have also been issued under the Land Conservancy Regulation, IV of 1091, regularising the treatment of encroachments on Government lands, preventing hardship to *bona fide* occupants of such lands in cases in which the occupation is unobjectionable, and securing the timely eviction, in the interests of the public, of occupations which are really objectionable.

6. Agricultural Loans.—The next measure of importance that has been undertaken with a view to the improvement of the lot of the agricultural population is the revision of the rules relating to the grant of loans under Regulation IX of 1094. Under these rules, officers of the Land Revenue Department are empowered to grant loans for the purchase of cattle, seeds, manure, implements of farming, and machinery and other appliances useful for agriculture or for making agricultural produce fit for the market, in addition to loans for improving the condition of the lands themselves or their irrigational or drainage facilities. The catalogue of objects is fairly comprehensive, comprising as it does every variety of agricultural activity. The Regulation and the rules were practically a dead letter in the past ; but a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 has been car-marked for the purpose of these loans in the budget for the current year, and with a view to popularise the loans, the procedure relating to enquiries has been simplified, enhanced powers have been conferred on the land revenue officers, stringent instructions have been issued for the speedy disposal of applications and the disbursement of loans to the applicants personally by responsible officers, encumbrance certificates in regard to property security have been ordered to be granted without payment of search fees, provision being also made for the grant of loans on adequate personal security, and a system of equated repayments has been introduced under which the amount due for each instalment is definitely fixed so as to cover both principal and interest, the latter being so low as 6¼ per cent. as against the rate of 7 per cent. recently adopted by the Mysore Government. The Government are glad to note that the facilities thus afforded have already begun to bear fruit, and that during the first five months of the current year loans to the extent of Rs. 47,800 have been granted, of which a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been actually disbursed.

7. Irrigation.—The extension of wet cultivation in the area commanded by the Kodayar channels in South Travancore is another important matter that has engaged the attention of the Government during the past twelve months. In my address last year, I referred to the appointment of a Special Officer for effective work in this direction, and you will be glad to learn that the work of that officer has been making appreciable headway. He has added to the registered irrigated area an extent of about 400 acres and has succeeded in inducing the interested ryots to cut distributary channels and open agricultural roads over an extent of 3 and 4 miles respectively. He has also been doing active propaganda work and pushing forward agricultural loans in the commanded area, 28 loans covering a sum of about Rs. 17,500 having been sanctioned and Rs. 12,000 actually disbursed by him up to the end of Dhanu 1097. A further examination of the causes that retarded the progress of conversions within the commanded area has disclosed the fact that the existing arrangements for the distribution of water under the project have contributed in no small measure to the indifference of the ryot population in this respect. As in the case of all large systems of irrigation, the distribution of water purely through official agency has been the main cause of agrarian discontent in South Travancore also, and it is clear that the only way of removing this discontent lies in bringing about the co-operation of the ryot and the official in regard to this function and in making both of them equally and mutually responsible. With a view to achieve this object by the organisation of a system of irrigation panchayats, largely non-official in composition and character, the Irrigation Regulation has been amended by Regulation V of 1097, and a set of comprehensive rules regulating the constitution and working of such boards will be issued shortly. The same Regulation would enable Government to tackle satisfactorily the equally important and difficult problem of putting up bunds for the cultivation of punja lands in Kuttanad and other localities similarly situated. The progress of the scheme for the improvement of

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minor irrigation tanks in the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara is being hampered by the hesitancy on the part of the ryots concerned to accept the terms that have been offered by the Government after a careful consideration of the question, and consequently the sum of Rs. 30,000 set apart in the budget for the improvement of the tanks in these two taluks still remains unutilised. Applications for the restoration of ten tanks in Vilavankod and 19 tanks in Neyyattinkara are reported to have been so far received. It is earnestly hoped that a settlement will be soon arrived at so as to prevent a lapse of the allotment at the end of the year.

8. **Adirapalli Project.**—In regard to the Adirapalli project, of which I had made mention last year, the Dewan of Cochin and myself have jointly inspected the locality and have had more than one conversation. The details are now being worked out and, pending final agreement between the two Governments, the survey of the area and the opening of a road connecting it with the plains have been ordered to be taken in hand.

9. **Drainage Works.**—Government are alive to the importance of the part that drainage plays in the agricultural economy of the State, and recently I took occasion to inspect the East Kallada pakuthi in the Quilon taluk, where this question is one of pressing prominence. I propose shortly to visit the West Kallada pakuthi of the Kunnattur taluk also, where conditions are reported to be similar. The problem is a complicated one and Government are considering the question whether it would not be an advantage to give one of its engineer officers some special training in agricultural engineering so as to enable him to tackle such problems successfully.

10. **Puduval Survey and Land Records.**—In my address last year, I explained the neglected condition of survey and land records in the State and emphasised the need for an organised effort to bring these items of work up to date, firstly as a preliminary to the resettlement of the State and secondly as a necessary factor in determining the relative position and rights of the Sirkar and the ryots in regard to occupied lands. The survey staff till then working—or rather not working at all—in the taluks, and that immediately subordinate to the Superintendent of Survey were amalgamated and reorganised into three parties, each under the responsible charge of a Sub-Assistant of Survey and subject to the control of the Superintendent of Survey. These parties were concentrated on twelve taluks containing extensive unoccupied lands, and they were directed to confine their attention to surveying in detail minor circuit blocks above five acres in extent, which were left unsurveyed at the time of the original survey and which have since been either wholly or partially occupied, as also those the registry of which is likely to be applied for in the near future. At the same time, an Assistant Tahsildar who, as I stated in my address last year, is ordinarily a young graduate recruited from the services and specially trained in chain and theodolite survey, was posted to each taluk, except those in the Devicolam Division, and was entrusted with the work of verifying boundary marks and detecting encroachments under the supervision of the Assistant Superintendent of Survey, and with the inspection of puduval cases and the disposal of pokkuvaravu cases, either contested or involving sub-divisions, with a view to relieve the Tahsildar of a large portion of his field work. Government note that, as against an estimate of 12 square miles, the three puduval survey parties have been able to show an outturn of about 6 square miles only per mensem and that the work of the Assistant Tahsildars has also been not up to the mark. Government must express their disappointment at the results so far achieved by these two agencies. While they recognise that a work of this kind has to contend against many initial difficulties and are satisfied with the explanation offered for the short outturn of the puduval survey parties, they cannot help animadverting on the lack of enthusiasm for field work evinced by the average Assistant Tahsildar in spite of his youth, education and the improved prospects that his training holds out for him, and the want of interest in the work of the Assistant Tahsildar which has been a marked feature of the average Tahsildar. It is to be hoped that the present and coming years will see a better record achieved in these directions, and that the difficulties that lie in the path of puduval survey and land records work will be rapidly and effectively overcome.

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